

differ in the matter of prognosis of knee-joint tuberculosis, which we think is better on this coast. He objects to early operations in bone tuberculosis unless a definite focal lesion is determined, and in view of some experiences we have had lately, his advice is good and timely. We agree with his experience in the Bier treatment of bone and joint tuberculosis, which coincides with ours.

In clubfoot, with inward rotation of the tibia, he does not mention a plan of correction which we think merits the highest praise, which is to make an osteotomy of the tibia and rotate the lower fragment outward on the perpendicular axis. We have found this manœuvre of the greatest value. He gives, however, many practical suggestions in the care of Scoliotics, and gives a place to Jones' method of treatment of contractures due to ischaemic paralysis.

As a whole the general part is suggestive, and, excepting the tangle on rheumatoid affections, of some value to students of medicine and to the family practitioner. At the end of the book, as a sort of appendage, there is a section on technic, and this is the cream and is really reason for the book. If the rest was lost this alone would be worth the price. There is more meat, more good advice, more happy suggestions on braces and methods and splint-making than we have seen in a long time. It is a joy to read what he says about splints.

Quotation after quotation could be given which should be axiomatic in the mind of every surgeon.

Why a man should waste his time in advocating vibrators and electricity and what not like a patent medicine "ad," when he really knows and can teach so much regarding the great mechanical principles, remains a mystery.

S. J. H.

**The Renewal of Life.** By Thos. Bassett Keyes, M. D. The Tubercle Press. Bureau, Chicago, Ill. 1909-1910.

This book of 206 pages is not, as its title implies, an essay in metaphysics or on religion, but a series of arguments for the use of subcutaneous injections of oil "in the cure and prevention of senility and disease; for the making of the acme of abundant health, stamina, vigor, vitality and constitution; for the cure of consumption and other diseases, particularly those of a chronic nature," a treatment which the author calls "the greatest therapeutic advance that has ever been made." According to the author, "oil injected into the tissues enters the circulation in practically the same way as when strained through the intestines; oil thus injected affects the blood cells directly, by feeding them so that they are enabled to grow, both in size and numbers and increase their strength and working powers."

Such assertions are at variance with the results obtained by recent experimental investigations. Henderson and Crofuth<sup>1</sup> showed that "oil injected subcutaneously is readily and widely distributed through the subcutaneous spaces. Such oil, however, is not transformed *in situ* into adipose tissue. In fact, the tissues react to its presence as to any non-irritating foreign substance. In the blood, lymph and milk it does not appear in any detectable amounts. While the oil is ultimately absorbed and utilized in metabolism, the process is one of extreme slowness. Oil injections in any moderate amounts are therefore practically without nutritive value."

Such false premises, coupled with an unpardonable lack of genuine medical knowledge, explain some of the author's extravagant, not to say ridiculous, statements, especially regarding the germicidal action of oil, the relatively small importance of outdoor life in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis, and finally the immunity to consumption through the assimilation of fats in sufficient quantities.

The author's portrait occupies the first page of this odd publication from the Tubercle Press Bureau. The last four pages contain references from the well-known Medical Brief and Pacific Medical Journal.

D. T.

<sup>1</sup> Yamdell Henderson and Edward F. Crofuth—American Journal of Physiology, Vol. XIV, No. 3, page 193.

**A Treatise on the Principles and Practice of Medicine.** By Arthur R. Edwards, A. M., M. D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine and of Clinical Medicine, and Dean of the Faculty in the Northwestern Medical School, Chicago; Attending Physician to Mercy, Wesley Hospitals, etc. Lea & Febiger, New York and Philadelphia, 1909.

It may appear surprising that this work has come to a second edition in such a short time, considering the number of similar standard text-books. But on looking into Edwards' book, the reason of its popularity is immediately apparent. For the practicing physician as well as for the student, it has many commendable features. Particular attention is paid to differential diagnosis, the various disease groups being often tabulated. Treatment is gone over in detail, a feature usually wanting in other works. Numerous plates and engravings illustrate the text. The writer has borrowed freely and wisely from other authors, both as to text and illustrations, and gives us a good, readable, clear exposé of his subject.

It is rather remarkable that in the diagnosis of aneurysms, the X-ray is not mentioned, and that exploratory puncture is spoken of as a means of differentiation from solid tumors. The Wasserman test is not alluded to as an aid to the diagnosis of syphilis.

It is furthermore rather astonishing that none of the recent books mention the fact that while many paratyphoid cases cannot clinically be distinguished from typhoid infections, on the other hand, many cases of acute gastro-enteritis prove to be paratyphoid infections, when investigated bacteriologically.

R. B.

**Diseases of the Eye.** By Chas. H. May, M. D. Publishers, Wm. Wood & Co., New York.

The sixth edition of May's well-known text-book has appeared, and deserves to be well received as it has been heretofore.

As a text-book for students in general medical work, it fills the requirements satisfactorily. The space given to the various divisions of the subject is well balanced, and the whole is concisely and lucidly treated.

There are a few paragraphs which do not express the latest and best line of thought—would mention particularly his treatment of Lachrymal Sac conditions.

E. C. S.